THE

Chriſtian Hiſtory;

Containing Accounts of the Propagation and Revival of Religion in *England Scotland* and *America*.

To be publiſh'd *Weekly*.

Saturday JUNE 25. 1743. § N°. 17.

AS the *chief Deſign* of *this Paper* is to be a General *Magazine* or *Treaſury* of PIOUS HISTORY, collected from authentick Books, Pamphlets, Papers and Letters both in *Print* and *Manuſcript*, as they come to our Notice; it cannot be expected, we ſhould go on in ſo exact an Order as if we had them all in our Eye at the Entrance of our Undertaking. But when we find we have *omitted* any *Remarkable*, we believe we ſhall oblige our pious Readers, and render our Collection more compleat, if we look back a little and recover what we had unhappily paſs'd over. And this ſhall be therefore the Buſineſs of the preſent Number: Eſpecially ſince the *following remarkable Inſtance* of the Revival of Religion at WINDHAM in *Connecticut-Colony* in the Year 1721, which we had over-looked, and which we are obliged to the Rev. Mr. *Foxcroft* for putting us in Mind of, will more properly come in *Here* than *after*, and ſhou'd have been placed before the *Earthquake*, which was in 1727. And herein we may ſee a *remarkable Inſtance* of the *ſame Nature* with *that Effuſion* of the HOLY SPIRIT at NORTHAMPTON and other Places about 14 Years after: tho' this at WINDHAM has not been ſo much known in this Part of the Land, and *that* ſince at NORTHAMPTON ſeems to have been in a *greater Meaſure*.

The *Account* is contained in a PREFACE to a *Sermon* of the Rev. Mr. *Adams* of *New-London*. The *Title-Page* is Thus --- 'A SERMON preached at WINDHAM, July 12. 1721. 'On a Day of *Thankſgiving* for the late remarkable Succeſs 'of the Goſpel among them.

And the PREFACE is as follows----

'IT ſeems to be ſomething neceſſary that ſome Account, ſhould be given of the Occaſion of the enſuing Diſcourſe, and it may (through the Bleſſing of GOD) be uſeful unto many, when they ſhall hear of the *Grace of God* unto others, and how he hath been mercifully pleaſed to *viſit his People.*

'*Windham* is a Town of about ſome thirty Years ſtanding, where the *Rev. Mr. Samuel Whiting* hath been improved in the Work of the Miniſtry, even from their Beginning.

'GOD hath been pleaſed to make him a very rich Bleſſing among them, and doubtleſs many will have Reaſon to bleſs God for ever in that their Lot hath been caſt to dwell under his Miniſtry. Not only hath he ſeen the Town flouriſhing to that Degree in this ſhort ſpace of Time, as that two other Societies are already ſprung out therefrom, but he hath had the Comfort to obſerve that many living and ſerious Chriſtians have been *born there*, and that his *Labour hath not been in vain in the Lord.*

'But of late there has been a greater *Stirring* than ordinary among the *dry Bones*, many have been awakened to conſider and enquire with a great deal of Earneſtneſs, *What they ſhould do to be ſaved?* Perſons *of all Ages* and ſome of whom there was but little Expectation, have *come together weeping to ſeek the Lord their God*, ſo that within the compaſs of about half a year, there have been *Fourſcore* Perſons joined to their Communion, and *more* are ſtill dropping in; So *mightily doth the Word of God grow and prevail* among them, and let us charitably hope that the Lord hath been *adding to his Church, ſuch as ſhall be ſaved.*

'Could their Rev. Paſtor have been prevailed upon ſo far to have gratified the Publick, we might have been more curiouſly entertained with the Knowledge of many Particulars, which ought not to be forgotten, while the Holy Spirit, like the *Wind that bloweth where it liſteth*, hath been *dividing to every one ſeverally as it will*, in this *Day of their Viſitation*; But at preſent we muſt be content with this ſhort and imperfect Account.

'In the mean time it is ſurpriſing to ſee what an happy Alteration there is made when God is pleaſed to bleſs the Diſpenſation of the Goſpel, and the Inſtitutions of his Houſe, and *confirm his Word* in the Mouths of his Servants. Now the *Eyes of the blind are opened*, the *Ears of the Deaf unſtop-*

'*ped*

'ped, the *Dumb* are taught to *ſpeak*, and they that were *ſpi-*
'*ritually dead are raiſed unto Life.*

'To behold obſtinate Sinners that *went on frowardly in the*
'*ways of their own Heart, yielding themſelves unto God*, ſuch
'as were *careleſs* and *unconcerned* about their own Souls, now
'brought to the laſt *Diſtreſs* and Concern about what they
'ſhall do to *Eſcape* from the *Wrath that is to come*, and ſuch
'as were fond of their ſeveral vicious Courſes now quitting
'them with ſhame and indignation, that they may endeavour
'for the future to lead their Lives, not *according to the Luſts*
'*of Men, but the Will of God. Shall it not from this Time be ſaid,*
'*What hath God wrought?* Surely it is the work of him that
'at firſt *commanded the Light to ſhine out of Darkneſs* and *called*
'*the things that were not as though they were.*

'Now the Work grows eaſie and delightful in the Hand
'of the Lord's Servants, their former Sighs occaſioned by
'their unſucceſsful Endeavours are changed into Praiſes, and
'they almoſt forget their other Sorrows and Burdens that are
'upon them, for *Joy* that People are *Born unto the Lord.*
'Now they that have happily *eſcaped out of the Snare of the*
'*Fowler* admire the wonders of Free Grace which *remembred*
'and *viſited them in their low Eſtate*, they are brought forth
'into the *Light of Life*, & having their Doubts and Fears gra-
'dually diſſipated, they go on *rejoicing for the Conſolation.* Their
'Fellow Chriſtians who *were in Chriſt before them*, receive
'them with open Arms, and many Thankſgivings are offered
'up unto the Lord. Now things put on the ſame Face of
'Gladneſs and Delight, as once they did at *Samaria*,, when
'CHRIST was preached with Succeſs, Acts 8. 8. *And there*
'*was great Joy in that City.*

'It was upon this Occaſion that a *Day of Thankſgiving* was
'appointed and obſerved by that diſtinguiſhed People, when
'the following Diſcourſe was delivered and is now by their
'preſſing and repeated Inſtances publiſhed to the World: if
'it may be any way Serviceable to influence them to *Stand*
'*faſt in the Lord*, or ſtir up any to mind the Things that *belong*
'*unto their Peace* there will be the leſs Occaſion to apologize
'for the Defects and Imperfections that may attend it.

'But, Oh! that the ſame good *Spirit from on High* were
'poured out upon the *reſt of the Country*, for what pity is it
'that this ſingle *Fleece* only ſhould be *wet with the Dew of*
'*Heaven*, while the reſt of the *Ground* round about remains,
'(comparatively) *dry.* And may we not ſay with the

‘ Pſalmiſt, *It is time for thee, Lord to Work*, when Iniquity ‘ gets Head and ſerious Religion is ſo ſadly decaying through- ‘ out the Land, inſomuch that there is ſcarce a ſufficient ‘ number riſing up to make good the Ground of them that ‘ are dropping off the Stage continually ; eſpecially when we ‘ conſider alſo how much ſhort they come of their good Spirit, ‘ and we are almoſt at a loſs to find Chriſtians among Chriſ- ‘ tians. It is true God is calling loudly to us by variety of ‘ *Providences*, the *Means of Grace* are yet in our Hands, and the ‘ *Ordinances* are among us, But *where is the God of the Ordi-* ‘ *nances ?* And *where are all the wonders which our Fathers told* ‘ *us of*, when the *Arm of the Lord was* powerfully *Revealed*, ‘ and People more generally *believed the Report* of the Goſpel ; ‘ May the Lord pleaſe to revive his own Work and help us ‘ to *Remember*, *hold faſt* and *Repent* and *do our firſt Works*, ‘ may his good *Spirit be poured out* more plentifully upon both ‘ *Miniſters* and *People*, that the one may *preach* more *plainly*, ‘ *boldly*, and with an *uncommon Concern* for the *glory of God* ‘ and the *Good of Immortal Souls*, and the other may *attend* ‘ with more *Earneſtneſs* and *Care* to the *things that are ſpoken*, ‘ *left at any time they let them ſlip* ; and may that *Good Spirit* ‘ of *Piety and Devotion* which ſometimes through the Bleſſing ‘ of God and the influence of his Grace begins to *kindle* in ‘ this or that Place, ſpread like a *flame* throughout the Land ‘ to *purge away our Droſs*, and *raiſe up a Seed which ſhall be* ‘ *accounted to the Lord for a Generation.*

‘ For this let *every one that is godly pray unto him* Day and ‘ Night, ſince with him is *the reſidue of the Spirit*, and he de- ‘ lights to be ſtirred up by the Prayers of his People ; Let us ‘ take with us Words and cry in the Language of the Prophet, ‘ Iſa. 51. 9. *Awake, Awake, put on Strength, O Arm of the Lord,* ‘ *awake as in the antient Days, in the Generations of Old.*

‘ *Who can tell but that as he hath begun to pour out of His* ‘ *good Spirit, ſo he may pleaſe to perfect the good Work and cauſe* ‘ *the good Saviour of his Knowledge to ſpread far and wide ?* ‘ Let us, as they that wiſh well to the Cauſe of ſerious and ‘ practical Religion, ſeeing the *Times are drawing nearer*, wait ‘ upon the Lord, till he ſhall appear for our help, bringing ‘ Salvation, when all Difficulties ſhall be removed, the Moun- ‘ tains be levelled and made a Plain ; and whatſoever letteth, ‘ ſhall be for ever taken away ; when he that hath *laid the*

Foundation

' *Foundation* ſhall *bring forth the Headſtone with Shouting*, ' while the Standers by are prepared with joyful Acclamati-' ons to *Cry*, *Grace Grace unto it.*

New-London Sept. 12, 1721. E. ADAMS.

[In the Application of Mr. *Adams*'s Sermon he ſays, p. 24.]

' I would now take leave to Apply my ſelf more particu-' larly to the People in this Place; A good Work hath been ' of late wrought among you, *Many* have been *Awakened*, ' *Convinced* and (as we ought charitably to hope) *effectually* ' *brought home to God*, the Neighbourhood hath rung of it and ' it hath been *told for a Memorial of Divine Grace*, good ' People every where have rejoiced upon the Hearing of it ' *and glorified God in you*, *Satan* hath been *Alarmed* and *En-' raged* (as we may well think) to ſee ſuch an Encroachment ' made upon his Kingdom, to behold ſuch large Waſte and ' *Spoil made of his Goods*: This is doubtleſs, *the Finger of God*, ' to him the Praiſe of it is intirely due, while the Inſtruments ' ſtand by, content only with a ſecondary Honour, and you ' have well done to ſet apart this time for your Publick, ' thankful Acknowledgment of this and other Mercies. Suf-' fer me therefore to apply my ſelf Particularly.

' Firſt. *To them who have happily been wrought upon in this ' Day of Grace and pouring out of the Spirit.*

' Secondly, *To them who have been paſſed Over and ſuffered ' to remain ſtill in their former Hardneſs and Security.*

' Thirdly, *To all the Godly and Chriſtian People in this Place.*

[Under this laſt Head he ſays, ---]

' 1. *Be the more confirmed in your Way by all the great Things ' which the Lord hath been doing among you of late.* I truſt that ' you are already well *rooted* and *eſtabliſhed in the Faith*, ſo ' that nothing will eaſily *move you from your Stedfaſtneſs*: yet ' now thro' the Mercy of God you have an abundant Confir-' mation of your Faith: You ſee what great Virtue and ' Efficacy there is in the Chriſtian Doctrine, that it muſt ' needs be the Word of God ſeeing it produceth ſuch great ' and good and marvellous Effects. You have a ſenſible and ' convincing Proof before your Eyes that there is ſomething ' in Religion, and have no further Need of Miracles to con-' firm it. When you ſee the Doctrine of Chriſt triumphing ' remarkably over the Ignorance, the Miſtakes, the Careleſ-

neſs,

'neſs and the Wickedneſs of Men, you have Reaſon to draw 'up that Concluſion which ſometimes *Jacob* did, *Surely the* 'Lord is in this Place. Surely, his *Word is good*; the *Ways* 'of the Lord are right, and the *Juſt ſhall walk in them.* Let 'nothing for the future ſhake your Stedfaſtneſs, and be not 'at all moved by the Confidence of fooliſh Men (if you 'ſhould be aſſaulted by them) to divert you from that Chriſtian 'Courſe wherein you have been educated, and take that 'Counſel, in 1 Pet. 1. 13. *Wherefore gird up the Loins of* 'your Mind, be ſober, and hope to the End, for the Grace that 'is to be brought unto you at the Revelation of Jeſus Chriſt.

[And thus he concludes]

'Let us all give Thanks unto him whoſe *Mercy endureth* 'for ever, who hath *ridden forth proſperouſly upon the Word of* 'Truth and hath made ſo many *People willing in the Day of* 'his Power. May he ſtill go on to *ſubdue the People under him,* 'that the *Hearts of the Fathers may be bro't down into the Chil-* 'dren, that we may ſtill *ſee the good of his Choſen*, and *Rejoyce* 'with the gladneſs of his Inheritance. And, Oh! that the *Lord* 'would ariſe and have Mercy upon Zion, that the *time to favour* 'it, the ſet Time may come, that the *whole Earth may be filled* 'with the Knowledge of the Glory of the Lord, as the Waters 'cover the Sea.

In ſome Meaſure agreeable to theſe pious Wiſhes was that Revival of Religion in *New-England* about *ſix Years after* upon the great and general *Earthquake* in 1727; and much more ſurprizing that Revival in the *County* of *Hampſhire* of the *Maſſachuſetts Province* and in *diverſe Towns* of *Connecticut Colony* in the Years 1734,5 & 6, as we have mention'd from Mr. *Edwards* before. But as Mr. *Edwards* has only given us theſe two Lines with reſpect to MANSFIELD in *Connecticut Colony*, viz. 'The ſame Work has been very conſiderable at 'MANSFIELD, under the Miniſtry of the Rev. Mr. ELEAZER 'WILLIAMS:' And as this very pious Miniſter is of late deceaſed, it is to be fear'd we ſhall have no other Account of the Revival of Religion *There* than what was publiſh'd by the ſame Rev. Mr. *Adams* of *New-London* in a *Preface* to three Sermons of Mr. *Williams*'s printed *There* in 1735; the *Subſtance* of which *Preface* is alſo inſerted in the Margin of the Rev. Mr. *Foxcroft*'s Sermon on *Soul Health and Proſperity*, printed at *Boſton* in 1742. We therefore judge it proper to put it in this Place of our Hiſtory, with the Rev. Mr. *Foxcroft*'s INTRODUCTION, in the following Terms, p. 20.

Let

'Let every new Converſion we ſee or hear of, open a freſh 'Spring of Joy in our Hearts, and fill our Mouths with Praiſe. 'As the Number of Converts in *Zion*, in this remarkable Day 'of divine Power and Grace, is on the increaſing Hand, and '*much People are daily added to the Lord* in one Place and ano-'ther, how ſhou'd all that wou'd approve themſelves Lovers 'of Chriſt and Souls rejoice and give Thanks! *Praiſe ye the 'Lord*: *Praiſe the Lord, O my Soul.*---Whatever Darkneſs 'and Difficulty may hang about the Minds of any, let them 'take Example from Acts. 11. 18. *When they heard theſe 'Things, they held their Peace, and glorified* GOD.--- O how 'ſhou'd we magnify the Lord with Thankſgiving, who is ſo 'marvelouſly at this Day *viſiting* our Land, to *take out of it a 'People for his Name*, and in ſo extenſive a Manner *reviving his 'Work* among us! May it ſpread ſtill more and more, till 'the whole Land, yea the whole Earth, is filled with the 'Glory of the Lord!

'This remarkable Work has ſurprizingly by various Means 'and Inſtruments been increas'd and extended, ſince the Rev. 'Mr. ADAMS, Paſtor of the firſt Church at *New-London*, 'and *a faithful Brother unto them* (*as I ſuppoſe*) publiſh'd 'his Thoughts upon it (Anno 1735) in a Preface to the Rev. 'Mr. *E. Williams*'s Sermon on *Prov.* 9. 4 5.—I beg Leave 'on this Occaſion to repeat from him the following Lines.

"We have heard of the *Grace of God* in ſome Parts of the "Country; how his *good* SPIRIT hath been at Work in di-"vers Towns, to awaken a Concern in many about *what "they ſhall do to be ſaved*; that this Concern continues, that "it ſpreads, and that Perſons are flocking into the Churches, "as *Doves to their Windows*: It muſt be look'd upon as a "*Token for Good*, and ſhould produce Praiſes to the LORD, "who is graciouſly *viſiting his People*. Only let them who "are thus awakened, take Care that they do not reſt in a "deceitful Work; and look well to their future *Converſa-"tion* (eſpecially ſince ſo many Eyes are upon them) that "it be altogether *as becomes the Goſpel of Chriſt*——

"It is not to be doubted, but that the *great Enemy of Souls* "will endeavour to diſgrace and throw an Odium upon this "good Work. It is no new Thing for him to ſow *Tares* in "the LORD's *Field* among the *good Wheat*, eſpecially if the "*Servants ſleep*.

"But

" But ſo long as this Concern is awakened by the reading " and hearing of the Word ; while it reforms the Life, and " cleanſeth the Way ; takes People off from their vain Con- " fidences, and brings them kindly over to Jeſus Chriſt ; " makes them ſerious, watchful, prayerful and heavenly- " minded ; helps them to govern better their Thoughts, " Words and Actions, their Appetites and Inclinations, " Paſſions and Affections ; diſpoſeth them to be juſt and righ- " teous, kind and charitable to all that are about them ; and " finally, fills them with Love to God, his Truths, his Ways, " his Worſhip and his People ; Now it hath *ſuch Marks of a* " *divine Work*, that the more general it is, ſo much the bet- " ter : and as it advanceth and ſpreads thro' the Country, " we ſhould all cry, *Grace, Grace unto it.*

" Some People at a Diſtance hearing of this Concern and " Stirring, are quite at a *Loſs* how to account for it ; they " *wonder* what ſhould be the Occaſion, and nothing leſs than " ſome *Prophet* or *Angel* ſent from above, or ſome Expecta- " tion of the World's ſudden coming to an *End*, ſeems to " them ſufficient to make it either ſo great or ſo extenſive.

" Others *mock* and *deride*.

" But what is there after all ſo very unaccountable in this " Matter ? Or what is there ſo very peculiar in their Cir- " cumſtances, who are now, thro' the Mercy of God, ſo " very much concerned ? Ought not all unconverted Sinners " ſadly to think of their loſt and undone Condition without " an Intereſt in Chriſt, if they would act reaſonably ? and " will they not alſo be bro't to it in the Day when the Lord " ſhall *open their Eyes* ? Truly it is wonderful, to think how " they can reſt Day and Night, while they have Reaſon to " judge that they are yet in the *Gall of Bitterneſs and Bond* " *of Iniquity*. Then ſhall theſe wondering People know " the Meaning of this Diſpenſation, when the Spirit of " Grace and Supplication ſhall drive them into their *inner* " *Chambers*, to unboſom themſelves before the Lord : And it " would be one of the beſt Days of all their Lives, were they " bro't into the like Condition. ELIPHALET ADAMS.

New-London, Sept. 3. 1735.

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